

## News in Brief

### SSS selection

Lt. Col. Jennifer Graham, 47th Mission Support Squadron commander, has been selected to attend the Industrial College of the Armed Forces in Fort McNair, Washington, a senior level service school.

### ORI Team

Laughlin Air Force Base would like to welcome the 19th Air Force Standardization and Evaluation Team from Randolph AFB. As part of pre-ORI requirements, they will be conducting flight evaluations with the 47th Operations Group.

## Inside Scoop

### Viewpoints:

Base chaplain explains what he is really thankful for this holiday season.

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### Lifestyles:

Laughlin members travel to San Antonio to witness basic military training.

Page 9

## Countdown to ORI:

24 days

# Exercise: practice makes perfect

By 1st Lt. Paula Kurtz

Public affairs

The 47th Flying Training Wing tested its capabilities recently with a series of exercises designed to help members prepare for the upcoming Operational Readiness Inspection which kicks-off Dec. 8.

The first exercise, which took place Oct. 29-30, tested the wing's ability to respond to changes in the force protection condition based on inputs of possible terrorist activity reaching Laughlin. The two-day event included a major accident response scenario involving weapons of mass destruction as well as an information condition scenario in which the 47th Communications Squadron demonstrated its ability to protect Laughlin's local area network from a cyber attack.

Col. Dan Woodward, 47th Flying Training Wing commander, complimented Laughlin members on their teamwork, but also noted the need for continued practice.

“Everyone did well in working together to make things happen, but we still need to put the polish on some things,” he said. “We need to be ready for the ORI, but in the bigger picture, we need to be absolutely



Photo by Dave Niebergall

Two Laughlin members tape off an area during an exercise Oct. 28. The exercise, which tested Laughlin's ability to respond to terrorist activity, was the first of two exercises in the last two weeks.

ready should something like this ever really happen.”

The major accident response scenario involved the simulated explosion of a bomb outside the Enlisted Heritage Hall. Team XL members responded to Exercise Evaluation Team inputs involving identifi-

cation and treatment of casualties as well as a building fire caused by the bomb.

One of the toughest challenges with any kind of major accident exercise lies in seeing what really isn't

See 'Exercise,' page 4

# Laughlin marks T-6 Texan II arrival today

By Jim Teet

Public affairs

Hectic training and ORI preparations here will pause briefly this afternoon to celebrate the official arrival of Air Force's newest trainer aircraft.

Beginning at 2 p.m., the T-6A Texan II and its namesake, the AT-6 Texan, will be on static display. All base personnel are invited to view the aircraft and arrival events.

The Texan II arrival will be heralded with a ceremony beginning at 3 p.m. on the aircraft parking apron in front of Base Operations. It will include an arrival flight of four Texan II aircraft and remarks by Maj. Gen.

James Sandstrom, 19th Air Force commander, and Col. Dan Woodward, 47th Flying Training Wing commander. Both commanders will be piloting two of the arriving aircraft.

The ceremonies will include a display of the Texan II flying capabilities, performed by the Air Education and Training Command T-6A Texan II Demo Team from Randolph. Following the demonstration, the new and the original T-6 aircraft will join to perform a heritage flyover.

(Editors note: There will be shuttles to take base members to the ceremony. Turn to page 5 for places and times.)



## Commanders' Corner

Chaplin (Lt. Col.) Carl Swanson  
*Base chaplain*

# We have many things to be thankful for this holiday season

Americans are about to celebrate Thanksgiving. Some of us will travel to be with loved ones. Others will feast in our dining facility or gather at the homes of friends and comrades for dinner. Three-hundred twenty-two of us already celebrated the holiday at the annual Chapel Thanksgiving dinner at Club XL. The club staff prepared a superb meal and we were all delighted to hear great American music presented by retired Maj. Gen. Gerald Prather and the Borderline Singers.

As we celebrate Thanksgiving, I want to tell you some of the reasons I'm especially thankful.

I'm the oldest guy on active duty here. Frankly, there are many experiences etched in my memory at which I likely would not have lived to be the oldest guy here, or even to my 20th birthday, if it were not for airpower.

I'm thankful for the courage and skill of brave aviators and all who supported them. In Vietnam, and other wars, airpower warriors saved a lot of lives. So will you, who face the future.

I'm thankful for our young airmen and their loved ones at Laughlin. Everyday, I experience your enthusiasm, love of country, devotion to duty and energy employed in teamwork. Whether we exchange snappy salutes at the front gate, engage in administrative duties or the many other tasks which make our wing succeed, you inspire me.

I'm thankful for our leaders. They are busy polishing our wing for

the Operational Readiness Inspection, bringing new planes to our flight-line, transforming us into a finely tuned mobility deployment machine and improving the base facilities. I'm thankful they set high standards and challenge us.

I'm thankful for our country. I believe that America is the best hope for humankind. We are a government of, by and for the people. Here we are free to worship as we believe and take the vocational path of our choice. We're not perfect.

Yet, here we are free to work on our social problems and continuously make the world a better place.

Despots and tyrants breed only hate and discontent. They provoke the worst human behaviors.

I'm thankful to serve with you. Specifically, I don't want to be on the sidelines of life. I want to be busy and add the moments of my life and energy to a mission which is vital to our country. All who serve in Team XL give me that opportunity.

I'm grateful to our loved ones. Just as much as anyone who flies a plane, turns a wrench, defends a post, does a medical procedure or operates a computer, our loved ones are likewise vital to our mission. They maintain our homes, raise children, put their careers on hold, pack up and move, kiss us good-bye, and do a gobzillion of other crucial du-

ties which enable us to wear the uniforms.

I'm grateful for cookies. I spent Thanksgiving as a 19 year-old in Vietnam, a vicious, nasty, violent, terrorist war. Loved ones and Americans we didn't even know sent us cookies.

Each cookie was an act of love which did more than taste good as a pastry. We took the cookies in our helicopters and shared the cookies with the troops in the field. The love expressed in the cookies strengthened my spirit and helped me remain civilized.

Well, Team XL, the present war is likewise nasty, vicious and violent. Father

(Capt.) Ivan Torres-Graciano, who is deployed to Operation Enduring Freedom, recently wrote me an e-mail. He mentioned the name of a young pilot who recently graduated from specialize undergraduate pilot training. The young pilot is already flying combat missions.

The war rages and certainly we will all need some cookies to bolster our spirits.

So, thanks be to God for our spouses group, who will collect and distribute cookies to our airmen at Laughlin this year. You may want to help, or send some cookies to our deployed folks.

There are many reasons to be thankful. These are a few of mine. What are yours?

***"The love expressed in the cookies strengthened my spirit and helped me remain civilized"***



### Editorial Staff

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#### Deadlines, Advertising

News for the Border Eagle should be submitted to the 47th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs Office, Bldg. 338, Laughlin AFB, TX, 298-5262. **Copy deadline is close of business each Thursday the week prior to publication.**

Advertising should be submitted to the Del Rio News-Herald, 2205 Bedell, Del Rio, TX, 774-4611. Advertising should be submitted by 4 p.m. each Friday.

Submissions can be e-mailed to: [timothy.stein@laughlin.af.mil](mailto:timothy.stein@laughlin.af.mil) or [yvonne.conde@laughlin.af.mil](mailto:yvonne.conde@laughlin.af.mil).

### Interested in the Air Force?

*Call Del Rio's Air Force recruiter at 774-0911.*



Actionline 298-5153

This column is one way to work through problems that haven't been solved through normal channels. By leaving your name and phone



Col. Dan Woodward  
47th Flying Training  
Wing commander

number, you are assured of a timely personal reply. It's also very useful in case more information is needed in order to pursue your inquiry. If you give your name, we will make every attempt to ensure confidentiality when appropriate.

If your question relates to the general interest of the people of Laughlin, the question and answer may also be printed in the Border Eagle.

Before you call the Actionline, please try to work the problem out through the normal chain of command or directly with the base agency involved.

Thanks for your cooperation, and I look forward to reading some quality ideas and suggestions.

|                        |          |
|------------------------|----------|
| AAFES                  | 298-3176 |
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| Civil Engineer         | 298-5252 |
| Civilian Personnel     | 298-5299 |
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| EEO                    | 298-5879 |
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| Hospital               | 298-6311 |
| Housing                | 298-5904 |
| Information line       | 298-5201 |
| Legal                  | 298-5172 |
| MEO                    | 298-5400 |
| Military Personnel     | 298-5073 |
| Public Affairs         | 298-5988 |
| Security Forces        | 298-5900 |
| Services               | 298-5810 |

***“Excellence –  
not our goal, but  
our  
standard.”***  
– 47th FTW motto

You're worth more than \$4.50

By Lt. Col. Barry Miller  
56th Component Maintenance  
Squadron commander

LUKE AIR FORCE BASE, Ariz. – I remember reading some time ago if you were to purchase all the organic substances that form the human body, you could do so for \$4.50. Less than five bucks. Hmmm... Never thought about it that way before, have you? Does this make you feel insignificant?

Way back when, back when I was only thinking about joining the Air Force, I believed the Air Force was some sort of omnipotent entity in itself. For some reason, I grew up accepting everything in life as a bureaucracy and the Air Force in my mind was no different. So when I entered, I viewed myself as nothing more than a cog molded to the outside of a slowly turning colossal wheel, grinding away day after day, with no one person having much influence on the speed or direction it turned.

Who was I to question the way the Air Force accomplished its business? I never came close to thinking of all of us as lemmings, but I did think of us as being nothing more than a cog on a wheel.

I can tell you it certainly didn't take me long to figure out what a

wonderful “bureaucracy” the Air Force really is. While growing as a young officer and trying to relearn everything I slept through during officer training school, I soon figured out the Air Force wasn't a “bureaucracy” after all. The Air Force was not a slowly turning wheel with all of us as cogs. It was and is, a very personable, highly tuned entity that responds quickly to change and performs flawlessly any mission our country asks of it.

So, what's the greatest revelation of all? The “it” from above is you. It is me. The Air Force is all of us. The Air Force simply does not exist without you, the living, breathing, multi-talented and dedicated human being you are.

I still remember the first decision I made as an officer that touched the lives of all those around me and had an impact on the direction the Air Force would take. What a powerful feeling – not an “I'm in charge” kind of power, but rather the feeling I, little ol' me, was entrusted with shaping the present and the future of such a “massive entity,” or a “colossal” wheel, or a “bureaucracy” as I originally and incorrectly categorized the Air Force back in my naïve days.

I was a lieutenant then, with no prior service. If I could feel the

power of realizing the impact I, as an individual had on my unit and the Air Force, who's to say any one of you reading this commentary can't experience the same high?

You can. It doesn't matter what your rank is. As a matter of fact, a lot of you continually demonstrate your professionalism and spirit every day. You are what makes this Air Force tick. You turn the wheel. The decisions you as airmen, junior NCOs and company grade officers make every day have a much more dramatic impact than you may realize.

The Air Force lives and breathes only through you. You have the power to make things happen. And it's not lip service when we tell you that you are needed. You truly are. We're not in the business of hiring people just for the hell of it. We hire people to perform every one of our missions because that's the only way the mission is going to get accomplished – with you.

So, don't kid yourself if you think you're just along for the ride. Trust me, the ride will stop if you decide to jump off.

The Air Force has invested thousands of dollars on your training and growth. Do you think just “anybody” is afforded this trust and responsibility? You are not insignificant. Your value to the Air Force is a hundred more times than the training you received. You are worth more than \$4.50. All we ask is for your two cents

***“The Air Force has invested  
thousands of dollars on  
your training and growth.  
Do you think just “any-  
body” is afforded this trust  
and responsibility?”***

Border Eagle commentary policy

The Border Eagle encourages base members to take part in their paper. Anyone wanting to write a commentary for the Viewpoint pages of the paper is welcome.

Commentaries can be written about any aspect of Air Force life

you find interesting. Commentaries should be 250 to 500 words in length. Public Affairs reserves the right to edit all submissions for length and clarity.

Commentaries for the Border Eagle should be submitted to the

Public Affairs Office, Bldg. 338. The deadline to submit a commentary is close of business each Thursday, the week prior to publication.

For more information, guidelines or help, call 298-5393.

Please recycle this news newspaper.

**‘Exercise,’ from page 1**

there, according to Colonel Woodward. People often don’t respond as they would if there were real injuries or a real fire, and that’s the mindset the colonel wants Team XL members to overcome.

“We need to have the right sense of urgency, even in an exercise scenario,” Woodward said. “We need to place ourselves in the roles as if the exercise was real so we’ll be fully prepared when we have a real crisis. If we do that, we’ll be superstars.”

Continuing to build on the original scenario, Laughlin’s EET team conducted a mobility exercise Nov 5-6. Laughlin members assigned to Air Expeditionary Force mobility pairs 5/6 and 7/8 reacted to a deployment tasking by taking their gear and records through an actual deployment line.

“We tested the deployment line process, to make sure it operated

properly, and to make sure the deploying members had the appropriate gear and their mobility records were complete,” explained Lt. Col. Martin Kelly, chief of wing plans and exercises.

While the ORI team is likely to test Laughlin on its deployment capabilities, Colonel Kelly gave another reason for conducting the exercise.

“Laughlin members are tasked against real requirements to support the AEF pairings. We need to be ready to day-to-day in case we’re tasked to deploy for real,” he said.

In addition to checking their gear, deploying members were given a written test on information contained in AFMAN 10-100, the Airman’s Manual, and were required to demonstrate their ability to don and doff their gas mask properly.

“This was an opportunity to refocus ourselves on the Air Force’s real core mission – mobility opera-



Photo by Dave Niebergall

Laughlin firefighters take care of the “injured” during the exercise Oct. 29. The two-day event, included a major accident scenario.

tions,” said Colonel Woodward. “We need to be able to deploy with the same level of skill that we’ve developed in training the world’s best pilots. Having a mobility mindset is

absolutely crucial to being an effective Air Force and if we develop that mindset as our priority here at Laughlin, everything else will take care of itself.”

**ORI preparation**

The *Border Eagle* offers tips to help Laughlin members prepare for the Operational Readiness Inspection, which takes place in three weeks.

Meet with your key players to ensure all ORI preparation suspense are complete or will be by one week prior to the team’s arrival.

Clean, paint and beautify your building, both inside and out. Look for and correct safety violation, such as exposed wires, wires that present a trip hazard, broken chairs, faulty electrical fixtures and wall plugs with no cover plate.

Take a good look around the work area. Make sure all pictures and charts are in good condition and displayed in an pleasing manner. Bulletin boards, grease boards and anything that hangs on a wall for information should be updated each week.

Check your storage sheds. Make sure they are clean and storing hazardous materials properly. If in doubt, call the safety office.

**Arts and crafts bazaar**

The Officers Spouses Club will hold its 13th Annual Arts and Crafts Bazaar at 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday at the Fiesta Center. Admission is \$2. Children under 12 get in free.

For more information, call 774-1002.

**Rising Six meeting**

The Rising Six will hold a meeting at 3:30

**Newslines**

p.m. Wednesday at Club Amistad.

For more information, Tech. Sgt. Marcel Brown at 298-5172.

**Transition seminar**

A successful transitioning seminar is planned for 9 to 11:30 a.m. Nov. 22 at the Fiesta Center.

Dick Crampton, an expert on transitioning from military to civilian employment, will be the speaker.

Laughlin members wishing to attend should 298-5620 by Monday. Space in limited.

**Medical group training**

The 47th Medical Group will be closed for training from 1 to 5 p.m. Nov. 21. The training is essential to maintain the medical group’s ability to respond to mission and wartime requirements.

During the training time:

- The pharmacy will be closed. Please plan to pick up an prescription or refill before 12:30 p.m. or the following day.
- Afternoon dental and medical sick call will not be available.
- The Nurse Triage Line will not be available.
- The Tricare Service Line will not be available
- The Tricare Service Center will be open.

- If you have a medical emergency, report to the Val Verde Regional Medical Center Emergency Room.

- For other care, call 1-800-406-2832

For details, call Capt. Dawnita Parkinson at 298-6309.

**Base firing range**

The Laughlin small arms firing range is off limits to unauthorized personnel and should be considered dangerous at all times. Trespassing in the range area is illegal.

Anyone needing access to the firing range area should call 298-5151 during duty hours and 298-5100 during non-duty hours.

**Access channel**

The slide format for the commander’s access channel, cable television channel 34, has changed. Slides should be in power point format and may now contain graphics, but no animation.

For details, call Deanna Norton at 298-5988.

**Lost and found**

The 47th Security Forces maintains a lost and found at the dispatch desk. Individuals may drop off and claim items as required there.

Currently items include a cellular phone, several key chains and some jewelry.

If any of these items are yours, call 298-5462.

# T-6 ceremony shuttle schedule

(All times p.m.)

Building #: 77 8 7 100/235/241  
Departure time: 2:15 2:20 2:25 2:30

Building #: 375/246 472/348  
Departure time: 2:35 2:40

If you know of or suspect fraud, waste and abuse, call the FWA hotline at 298-4170.

# CMSAF discusses issues

By 1st Lt. Dani Burrows  
Aeronautical Systems Center Public Affairs

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio – The most important thing any airman can do is “recognize that what you do is valuable to our nation’s very existence and what we stand for,” said Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Gerald Murray during his visit here Nov. 8.

“When I speak to young airmen, I let them know that their service is valuable,” he said. “It is our Air Force. All I ask of them is that they do the job the best that they can and make the commitment that they signed up

for.” Although retention rates are improving, according to Chief Murray, the Air Force continues to focus on keeping its quality people by working toward greater predictability of deployments, balancing the force and improving quality of life. Murray pointed to recent strides the Air Force has made in the last few years. One example is the recent addition of enlisted airmen enrolled in master’s degree programs at the Air Force Institute of Technology here. “Our enlisted (members) at AFIT are a testament to the growth in professionalism and educational experience of our enlisted force,” said Chief Murray, referring to the eight airmen currently attending the institute. “Our challenge is to ensure that we match their education and skills with requirements that will continue to improve the quality of our Air Force, not only for these eight, but for those who will come after them,” he said. Chief Murray also discussed the new four-plus-one dormitory concept. The new style has four airmen sharing a common living area, complete with a kitchen and living room, but having their own bedroom and bathroom.

See ‘Chief,’ page 6

‘Chief,’ from page 5

Chief Murray also talked about recent improvements in pay and compensation over the last three years.

“We’ve done well at balancing the mid-level (non-commissioned officers’) pay table,” he said. “We still have a gap (in pay) for senior NCOs.”

Chief Murray said he will advocate for a targeted pay raise this year and in 2004 to address that gap.

He also discussed the recent increase in tuition assistance. The assistance now pays 100 percent of tuition and fees up to \$4,500 a year, covering tuition at most colleges and universities, according to Murray.

Another topic Murray discussed was operations tempo, which he said was probably the single most important factor in an airman’s decision to stay in the Air Force.

“The ops tempo is not

going away,” he said. “Our goal is to be able to balance and utilize our forces in the most equitable way.”

One of the goals is to maintain the air and space expeditionary force deployment rotation schedules and continue to improve on the process.

The Air Force is doing that now for about 90 percent of those deployed, he said, with the exception of high-demand units and stressed career fields.

“We’re working hard to improve those stressed career fields by bringing new accessions into certain career fields and continuing voluntary cross training into those areas,” he said.

“Our Air Force is heavily tasked, but there’s hardly an airman in our Air Force today who can say that what they’re doing is not important and meaningful, and they can certainly say that they’re making a difference in our mission,” he said

**If you know of or suspect fraud, waste and abuse,  
call the FWA hotline at 298-4170.**



# Bush: ‘The man must disarm’

By Linda D. Kozaryn  
*American Forces Press Service*

WASHINGTON – Zero tolerance is America’s current policy toward Iraq, President Bush declared Tuesday.

Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein must comply with U.N. resolutions or the United States will lead a coalition to disarm him, Bush said during a visit to the District of Columbia Metropolitan Police Department Operations Center.

“We’re through negotiations,” he said. “There’s no more time. The man must disarm. This kind of deception and delay, all that’s over with. The country is committed to making the world more peaceful by disarming Saddam Hussein. It’s just as simple as that.”

For the past 11 years, Saddam has tried to deceive the world, Bush noted, “and

we’re through with it.”

The president discounted the Iraqi parliament’s rejection of the U.N. resolution passed Nov. 8 calling for disarmament.

U.N. Resolution 1441 recognizes the threat Iraq’s continued noncompliance with previous U.N. resolutions poses.

The resolution gives Iraq 30 days from the date of the resolution to provide “a current, accurate, full and complete declaration of all aspects” of its weapons of mass destruction programs. Iraq must provide information on all delivery systems and on all aspects of its research and development programs. The resolution forces Iraq to provide “immediate, unimpeded, unconditional, and unrestricted access” to areas in the country.

Army Gen. Tommy Franks, combatant commander of U.S. Central

Command and speaking in Florida this morning, said President Bush has not made a decision to go to war in Iraq. He said the president has decided, however, that Saddam’s “cheat, retreat” tactics and flouting of U.N. Security Council resolutions “will not stand.”

The decision to be made is up to Hussein and his regime, General Franks said. “The only road that is not available to us in the future,” he added, “is the road we have recently been on, which permits the reconstitution of weapons of mass destruction which, at some point, could fall or be placed in the hands of state-sponsored or transnational terrorists.”

America’s future, the general said, must be secured by putting in “a roadblock in order to preclude the possibility of weapons of mass destruction and terrorism coming together.”

# Air Force Link adds history section

By 1st Lt. Robert J. Krause  
*Air Force Print News*

SAN ANTONIO – Air Force Link, the official Web site of the U.S Air Force, launched a new history and heritage section Nov. 8 to coincide with Veterans Day and the upcoming 100th anniversary of flight.

The new section documents the achievements of airpower, starting from the early days of wooden-wing aircraft to modern air and space vehicles. It also chronicles the unique accomplishments of many Air Force leaders, past and present, and contains photos and other historic information.

The information contained in the new section was compiled from inputs by Air University, the Air Force Museum and the Air Force history support office. It was developed by the Air Force News Service here.

Each week new features and photos will be added to the site.

“This will be a great place for the general public or military member to quickly access Air Force historical information,” said

Master Sgt. Jim Greeley, AFNS chief of news technology. “This is a great start for a unique Web page we hope will grow and get even better.”

The history site will also target future Air Force leaders by including a weekly quiz designed to educate future airmen.

“We designed the quiz to support Air Force ROTC and Junior ROTC education curricula,” said Mr. Bob Jensen, director of news operations at AFNS. “It’s also a way to reach other people who want to know about the Air Force. Although we expect all members of the Air Force, past and present, will be challenged and informed by the quizzes.”

Answers and sources for the weekly quizzes will be posted the following week.

The Air Force History and Heritage section can be found at [www.af.mil](http://www.af.mil). Click on the “history” link on the bar near the top of the page.

If you have any questions or would like more information, e-mail [afhistory@afnews.af.mil](mailto:afhistory@afnews.af.mil).

# Laughlin members go back to basic

By 1st Lt. Paula Kurtz  
*Public affairs*

The mass of 850 trainees stood quietly at parade rest, waiting for the moment that had no doubt become the focal point of their existence over the past five weeks. Where one might expect smiles and excited chatter, there were only somber, dirt-streaked faces that spoke of stress and strain and emotions held tightly in check.

Wearing camouflage uniforms, web belt, canteen and helmets that had become the standard uniform of the day, they waited patiently to hear the first strains of the Star Spangled Banner, signaling the beginning of the ceremony and marking their cross into the blue.

On the sidelines, sitting in metal bleachers, a small group of 30 or so noncommissioned and company-grade officers shared quiet comments and a few personal stories as they surveyed the formation of troops. Many looked out across the neat rows of faces and saw their own reflected there as they recalled the years gone by.

The event is called the Culmination Ceremony, and it marks the end of what is known as Warrior Week for basic enlisted trainees at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio. The spectators were from Laughlin Air Force Base and had traveled to Lackland for an up-close look at the challenges facing today's airmen as their rite-of-passage into the Air Force ranks.

"Basic military training has changed a lot since many of these folks went through," said Col. Dan Woodward, 47th Flying Training Wing commander and host of the day's tour. "This is an opportunity for them to see how things have changed and experience where the airmen in today's Air Force are coming from."

The day began at 5 a.m. with a three-hour bus ride to Lackland. Upon arriving, the group attended a BMT graduation ceremony at the parade field where they observed from the reviewing stand as Colonel

Woodward served as the guest reviewing official. Next, the group walked through the uniform issue area, where trainees are fitted for their battle dress uniform in the first week of training, then again in the third week for their blues.

The next stop was the 319th Training Squadron, where an airman's paper trail begins its Air Force journey. Everything from initial pay to job classification to signing up for the Montgomery GI Bill takes place here.

Following lunch in one of the 16 dining facilities located across the 8881-acre installation, the group visited one of the six 1960's-era "street squadrons," where the bulk of training takes place. Each squadron is composed of 20 dormitories, a dining hall, classrooms and a physical conditioning pad to support the 50 Military Training Instructors and 1000 trainees who inhabit them.

"I knew I'd see some outstanding airmen," said Master Sgt. Terry Hockless, 47th Comptroller Flight deputy financial services officer and 17-year Air Force veteran. "But I was really impressed with the quality of the people in-place doing the training. What it takes to produce one airman is just phenomenal."

Military Training Instructors attend 14 weeks of rigorous training – the longest of all branches of service – before embarking on their three-year controlled tour.

MTI candidates must exhibit excellent performance in their primary duty, have no financial problems and pass a psychological screening before being accepted for the special-duty assignment. And despite logging in 18 hours per day, 7 days per week, Staff Sgt. Jeffery Ball said it's the most rewarding job he's ever had.

"I like to spend the first 72 hours with (the trainees) so that I'm all they know and they can learn pretty quickly what I expect of them," said Sergeant Ball, an MTI assigned to the 324th Training Squadron. "Those first few hours really are the most important in building the team-



Photo by 1st Lt. Paula Kurtz

A military training instructor shakes hands with a newly "promoted" airman after handing him his Air Force coin during the Culmination Ceremony on Nov. 8 at Lackland Air Force Base.

work that's going to get them through the next six weeks."

After departing the squadron, the tour group headed out to the Field Training Exercise site where Warrior Week events teach airmen the skills needed to setup and operate in a bare-base environment.

Warrior Week came about in 1995 as a result of a commander's conference convened to discuss Air Force training issues. Conference attendees decided to implement the deployment scenario as a means of instilling the Expeditionary Air Force mentality at the outset of an airman's career, according to Col. Michael Huhn, 37th Training Wing vice commander.

Set on a 10-acre site, more than 5,200 trainees inhabit the camp daily. Sleeping on cots inside long, narrow tents, the trainees spend six intense days learning how to fire the M-16, practicing nuclear, biological and chemical identification and decontamination procedures – including a mask "confidence" test in the high-tech gas chamber – testing self-aid and buddy care lessons, and

pushing themselves through the physical rigors of the 19-obstacle "Confidence Course." Friday marks the last day of events and the long-awaited culmination ceremony where their MTI will present them with a shiny new airman's coin depicting the historical Hap Arnold wings and engraved with the three core values, and they will be rewarded for their discipline and dedication with a new hard-won title – Airman!

Many things here were familiar to those clustered on the bleachers. Although much had changed in the process of transforming a basic military trainee into a skilled airman, some things about basic training would never change.

The sound of metal against concrete generated chills for some as the razor-sharp training instructors walked deliberately up the aisles. Tap...tap...tap...tap. Their rigid demeanor commanded respect. Their stony faces inspired fear as they searched for the slightest infraction

**See 'Basic,' page 10**



The *XLer*

**Hometown:** Killeen, Texas  
**Family:** None of my own yet, but I have my parents, two older brothers and an older sister.  
**Time at Laughlin:** 2 years  
**Time in service:** 2 years, 4 months  
**Greatest accomplishment:** Making my father proud by following in his footsteps  
**Hobbies:** Watching movies  
**Bad habit:** I overreact sometimes.  
**Favorite film:** *Anything with Morgan Freeman*  
**If you could spend one hour with any person, who would it be and why?** My grandmother, she passed away before I was born.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Timothy J. Stein

**Airman 1st Class Tiffani Patterson**  
*47th Flying Training Wing command post controller*

‘Basic,’ from page 9

of the rules.

Minds lost in reverie returned reluctantly to the present as a voice boomed over the loudspeaker. The official party had arrived. It was time to begin.

Over the past six days, they had become warriors. Digging foxholes, building perimeter defenses, responding to scenario after scenario – they learned the value of teamwork, rising up to meet every challenge and pushing themselves farther than they ever would have imagined they could.

“It’s incredible to think how much potential the Air Force has just in that ceremony today,” said Sergeant Hockless, referring to the 850 airmen before him. “Multiply that times 50 ceremonies per year,” – culmination ceremonies are held every Friday at 3 p.m. – “and it’s mindboggling to see how the system is constantly being refreshed.

As their unit number was called out, the MTI marched forward to receive the airmen’s coins, presenting each one individually to its owner, with a handshake and heartfelt congratulations.

As the MTIs moved through the ranks, the spectators in the bleachers were encouraged to walk among the formation and welcome the newest members of the United States Air Force.

Tears welled in the eyes of many, and as the veterans offered simple congratulations or words of encouragement for the one week of basic training remaining, the tears broke their boundaries and wide smiles brightened the tired, grimy faces.

“When you’re looking into the eyes of people who have been called ‘Airman’ for the first time and see the tears of patriotism, you know why we have the greatest Air Force,” said Colonel Woodward, “Because we have the greatest people.”

# Self-taught golfer helps lead U.S. team to win

By Staff Sgt. Jill Propst  
56th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

LUKE AIR FORCE BASE, Ariz. – While many golfers look forward to reducing their score at the end of a tournament by the strokes of their handicap, one Luke golfer has had to add strokes to his score to even the playing field.

Sam Paugh, a technical sergeant assigned as a crew chief with the 944th Fighter Wing, has captured four men’s club championships and three base championships at Luke.

He said during the last base championship “they actually had to add strokes to my score,” because his U. S. Golf Association handicap is plus-1.

Paugh recently took his golfing skills to another level – playing with the best golfers in the Department of Defense. Because of his achievements locally, he was allowed to compete for a position on the Air Force golf team.

The 42-year-old Paugh not only made the Air Force team, but went on to be a member of the armed forces team. As such, he played in a tournament against Canada and South Africa.

While at the tournament, Paugh inter-

acted with and learned about the other golfers.

“I learned they are all just like us. They have the same thoughts, hopes and desires,” he said. “You get to see them from hole to hole. You get to see the real them.”

At the tournament, the United States won the gold medal, and Paugh brought home the 2nd place medal in the all-services competition.

The tournament was the first of this caliber Paugh has played in, even though his golfing career started when he was 19. After joining the

Air Force, he began playing in intramurals.

“I’ve had a few lessons throughout the way, but basically I’m self taught,” he said.

Even after progressing to the Armed Forces team, Paugh, who plays a few times a week, remains humble.

“I still don’t think I’m a good golfer,” he said. “At this level I’m good, but compared to the people you see on TV, I’m still an average golfer.”

So where does the average golfer go from here?

“My long term goal is retirement and maybe a senior [golf] tour,” he said.

*“I’ve had a few lessons throughout the way, but basically I’m self taught.”*

– Tech Sgt. Sam Paugh  
944th Fighter Wing crew chief

## Football standings

| AFC      | W/L  | NFC            | W/L |
|----------|------|----------------|-----|
| LSI      | 7-2  | 86th Rio Lobos | 6-2 |
| 47th CES | 5-4  | 47th Med GP    | 5-3 |
|          |      | SFS            | 0-8 |
| XFL      | W/L  |                |     |
| 47th OSS | 10-0 |                |     |
| 47th CCS | 6-4  |                |     |

## XL Fitness Center hours

**Monday – Thursday:**  
5 a.m. to midnight

**Friday:**  
5 a.m. to 8 p.m.

**Saturday – Sunday:**  
9 a.m. to 8 p.m.

**Holidays:**  
10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

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